

measure cleared a committee it was pretty much in shape for final passage. Times have changed! Thanks to Dr. Riddick's persistence and expertise, the Digest that he established remains virtually intact a half-century later.

Floyd Riddick served as Senate editor from 1947 to 1952, when he moved to the newly created post of Assistant Senate Parliamentarian. He subsequently served as Senate Parliamentarian from 1964 until his formal retirement a decade later. I say "formal," because Dr. Riddick remained with the Senate on an unsalaried basis to prepare a history of the Committee on Rules and Administration and, most importantly, to revise the indispensable volume that now bears the title Riddick's Senate Procedure. Today, Dr. Riddick continues a productive retirement in South Carolina.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of the Daily Digest's Senate editors be inserted in the RECORD following this statement.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DAILY DIGEST SENATE EDITORS

Floyd M. Riddick, 1947-1952.

Fred Green, 1952-1969.

Dwight Galt, 1969-1979.

Mary Ann Dubs, 1979-1980.

Jim Timberlake, 1980-1988.

Thomas Pellikaan, 1989-present.

WORLD FLIGHT 1997

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on March 17, 1937, Amelia Earhart took to the skies in her Lockheed 10E to fulfill her dream to be the first pilot ever to circumnavigate the globe at its longest point—the Equator. Today, she stands as one of our greatest American heroes. Through her vision and spirit, she demonstrated to the world that limits are more often perceived than real.

This morning, 60 years after Ms. Earhart began her journey, Linda Finch took off from Oakland, CA, to re-create and complete Earhart's heroic expedition. Spanning 5 continents and making more than 30 stops in 20 countries, Linda will closely replicate Earhart's route. The flight is expected to take 2½ months, and is the first to re-create Earhart's flight using the same make and model aircraft, a Lockheed Electra 10E, with only a pilot and navigator at the controls. Indeed, the aircraft has been meticulously and accurately restored to replicate Earhart's Electra right down to its rivets.

Linda hopes that her journey, called World Flight 1997, will inspire millions of American children with Earhart's belief that with faith in yourself, anything is possible. As she notes, "World Flight was created to share Amelia Earhart's vision with young people. The heart of the World Flight project is its outreach to inner city and at-risk youth with her message about reaching above and beyond perceived limitations." To spread this message, she has developed an interactive educational

program for students, including an Internet web page that will allow students to track her flight in real time and read messages from Linda and her navigator. Like her, it is my hope that children all over the world will follow her travels, and from them gain the confidence to follow dreams of their own.

As Linda begins her flight, I wish her a safe journey. Like her hero Amelia Earhart, she is an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. BILLY LEWIS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a truly outstanding Naval officer, Capt. Billy Lewis who has served with distinction for the past 23 months as Director of the Navy's Senate Legislative Liaison Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the U.S. Senate and to our great Nation as a whole.

A native of Pensacola, FL, and a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Lewis began his naval career as the damage control assistant aboard U.S.S. *Dehaven* (DD 727). His follow-on tours of duty included Naval Headquarters, Saigon, engineer and weapons officer aboard U.S.S. *Talbot* (FFG 4), and he was second in command when U.S.S. *Jack Williams* (FFG 24) was commissioned in 1983. Capt. Billy Lewis has had three tours of duty in command at sea—U.S.S. *Takelma* (ATF 113) from 1977 to 1979, U.S.S. *Robert G. Bradley* (FFG 49) from 1986 to 1988, and U.S.S. *Thomas S. Gates* (CG 51) from 1993 to 1995. As Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *Thomas S. Gates*, Capt. Lewis served as Anti-Air Warfare Commander for Joint Task Group *George Washington*.

Captain Lewis' duty ashore has included the Naval Postgraduate School where he earned a master of science degree in management in 1980, and two tours of duty on the Navy staff in Washington, DC. From 1983 to 1985, he served as a program analyst in the Office of General Planning and Programming, and from 1989 to 1991, he served as head of the Program and Budget Development Coordination Branch for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations. Additionally, he attended National Defense University and graduated from the National War College in 1992.

During his tenure as the Navy's Director of Legislative Liaison for the Senate which began in April 1995, Captain Lewis has provided members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, our personal staffs, as well as many of you seated here today, with timely support regarding Navy plans and programs. His valuable contributions have enabled Congress and the Department of the Navy to work closely together to preserve the modern, well-trained and well-equipped naval forces upon which our country has come to depend.

Mr. President, Billy Lewis and his family have made many sacrifices during a 28-year Naval career and made a

significant contribution to the outstanding naval forces upon which our country relies so heavily. During his illustrious career, Captain Lewis has been the recipient of many awards and commendations including the Legion of Merit with one gold star. He is a great credit to both the Navy and the country he so proudly serves. As he now departs to take command of Regional Support Group in Mayport, FL, I call upon my colleagues to wish him fair winds, and following seas.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY STATEMENT BY THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the Friends of Ireland is a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives opposed to violence and terrorism in Northern Ireland and dedicated to maintaining a United States policy that promotes a just, lasting, and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Each year, the Friends of Ireland issues an annual statement of the current situation in Northern Ireland. We believe our colleagues in Congress will find this year's statement of particular interest because of the events of the past year and potential for progress this year. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT BY THE FRIENDS OF IRELAND, ST. PATRICK'S DAY, 1997

On this St. Patrick's Day, we the Friends of Ireland renew our call for the IRA to restore its cease-fire, which should be followed by Sinn Fein's immediate entry into the Northern Ireland all-party peace talks when they resume in June.

The Friends of Ireland commend our former colleague, Senator George Mitchell, for his outstanding service as chairman of the talks. The talks offer an historic opportunity to address the three key relationships which must underpin any settlement—those within Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between Ireland and Britain. We fully support this process, and recognize that there is much greater likelihood for success if all parties with an electoral mandate, including Sinn Fein, participate in the talks. Sinn Fein's participation in the talks, however, is properly conditional on the unequivocal restoration of the cease-fire by the IRA.

We also recognize that the IRA maintained a cease-fire for 17 months, from September 1994 to February 1996. It is of deepest concern that, during that long and hopeful period, additional obstacles were laid in the way of bringing all parties to the table. We hope that a renewed IRA cease-fire will on this occasion be met with an appropriate response by the British Government, including the taking of necessary confidence-building measures.

Basic issues of equal justice and human rights are at the heart of the conflict in Northern Ireland and they must be central to any realistic resolution of the conflict. Peace without justice is not sustainable. It is only likely to flourish when all sides feel that their basic rights are respected and protected. Accordingly, we urge prompt action to remedy outstanding miscarriages of justice such as the Casement and Latimer

cases. In light of the compelling new evidence surrounding Bloody Sunday, we add our voice to the calls for a new inquiry into this tragedy.

We are also concerned by the deteriorating conditions under which Republican prisoners are being held in Britain and in particular the treatment of Roisin McAliskey. It is essential, in negotiating a new political framework for Northern Ireland, that respect for human rights be guaranteed. The creation of a Bill of Rights, and a police service with the confidence of the whole community, are essential to ensure the protection of the rights of all and to lay a solid foundation for a lasting peace.

We strongly oppose the continued and increased punishment beatings by paramilitaries in both communities. Such atrocities have no place in society, and we call for an immediate end to these attacks.

It is essential that there be no repeat of the deplorable events during last year's marching season. The RUC behavior at Drumcree further eroded the confidence of the Catholic community in fairness of the police force. As the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices recently noted: "Many observers on both sides of the community perceived the Government's reversal in the face of unlawful Unionist protests as a victory of might over the rule of law, and the incident damaged the RUC's reputation as an impartial police force."

We therefore strongly endorse the recommendations in the North Report that an independent parades commission be given full decision-making powers to deal effectively with controversial parades. We are concerned at the British Government's decision to delay implementation of significant sections of the report, which in our view must be in place in advance of this year's marching season.

The Friends of Ireland welcome the strong commitment of President Clinton and the Congress to the success of the peace process in Northern Ireland, and the transformation in the situation which all have helped bring about. We are confident that the United States will continue to play a constructive role in encouraging an early and peaceful resolution of the conflict for the benefit of all the people of Northern Ireland.

FRIENDS OF IRELAND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senate

Edward M. Kennedy.
Daniel Patrick Moynihan.
Christopher J. Dodd.

House of Representatives

Newt Gingrich.
Richard A. Gephardt.
James T. Walsh.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, March 14, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,362,748,754,102.53.

One year ago, March 14, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,035,166,000,000.

Twenty-five years ago, March 14, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$428,412,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,934,336,754,102.53—during the past 25 years.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FUNDRAISING

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 22, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22) to express the sense of the Congress concerning the application by the Attorney General for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations of illegal fundraising in the 1996 Presidential election campaign.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week there was an attempt made, I think, on the part of some—not all, but on the part of some—a serious attempt made in the Judiciary Committee to put together a bipartisan letter to the Attorney General regarding what should be done on the question of an independent counsel and some of the campaign fundraising issues. Unfortunately, it ended up being a partisan matter and the Republican majority, as is their right, sent a highly partisan letter asking immediately for an independent counsel.

Most of us on the other side sent a letter, which I signed as ranking member, along with other Democratic members, asking basically that we follow the law and we go through the various steps required on the issue of independent counsel: That we do not bring political pressure on the Attorney General to act one way or the other, recognizing that the reason for the independent counsel law was to shield the process and the Attorney General from political pressure or posturing.

In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of the Senate to the lead editorial in yesterday's Washington Post. The Post has been in the forefront of those investigative journalists who have been working on stories about many aspects of fundraising that has been taking place, and is taking place, to finance Federal elections—both fundraising by the Republican Party and by the Democratic Party. Certainly, the Post has not been shy about criticizing Republicans or Democrats, in the Congress or out, with regard to campaign fundraising.

It is interesting to read their editorial because, basically, they take the same position as we had taken on the Democratic side of the Senate Judiciary Committee. They speak of all the reasons to wait and follow the law itself, as she is now doing, and to have the Attorney General make her own determination. It ends by saying this:

There is one other major factor that argues for waiting awhile before deciding whether to seek an independent counsel in the campaign finance case. It has to do with what we believe to be the integrity and, if you will, independence of this attorney general herself. She is an uncommon figure in this town, and this administration, as even many who are banging on the table for an

independent prosecutor will agree. We do not think it would be an inducement to sleeping well at night to know she was on your case if you had violated the law and were trying to hide it—especially with her honor being publicly challenged over and over again on this matter.

You balance risks in a decision like this. The risk of leaving the case in her hands at this stage, while Justice Department, congressional and other investigators continue to try to flesh it out, seems pretty slim. Events could change that. But right now the matter seems to us to be proceeding well enough without an independent counsel.

I ask unanimous consent the entire editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 16, 1997]

THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL ISSUE

Attorney general Janet Reno says the conditions that would require the naming of an independent counsel in the case of the fundraising for the president's reelection campaign have yet to be met. She's taking a lot of heat for that. Critics accuse her of trying to protect the president. Congressional Republicans, some Democrats and all manner of other commentators say if ever a case carried out for an independent prosecutor, it is this one. We aren't so sure. Anything could turn up tomorrow. But on the basis of what is known today, an argument can be made that Ms. Reno is right.

We say that as strong supporters of the independent counsel statute, though in some instances we have thought past counsels carried on too long or went too far. We say it also as a frequent critic of both the administration and the rotten system of campaign finance, whose corrupting qualities the president did so much to confirm last year. The fund-raising practices, some of them, in which he, the vice president and their adherents indulged were shabby, heavy-handed, demeaning, unseemly, questionable, destructive of public confidence and pretty close to the edge. But it isn't clear they were illegal. That, in fact, is the problem. The law is at least elliptical; not enough of what ought to be illegal is.

The virtue of the independent counsel act is that it reduces the conflict of interest that inevitably arises when an administration is called upon to investigate its own behavior. But it is not meant to avert mere awkwardness; it comes into play in only certain instances. The attorney general must seek appointment of an independent counsel (by the special court created to do so) when confronted with specific, credible evidence of criminal wrongdoing by the president, vice president, Cabinet officials and certain others in the executive branch, including a limited number of senior White House aides. She also may seek appointment of a counsel when confronted with evidence of such conduct by a lesser official where she feels there is a conflict.

The evidence of such conduct in this case thus far is a lot more limited than the churning surrounding the case would suggest. A lot of pretty squalid stuff was done. But so far as we know, no specific, credible evidence exists that, say, an official covered by the act sold a particular piece of policy for a campaign contribution, or knowingly accepted money from a forbidden source. You could make the generic charge against both presidential campaigns that they violated and pretty well trashed the campaign finance laws, including their criminal provisions, by raising so much so-called soft money in excess of federal limits. They pretended it wasn't campaign money when it